

COMPANIONS

1 Cor 15.33

Be not deceived: Don't let a person pull wool over eyes.

Peer pressure in church, ...abuse doctrine of resurrection.

Evil communications: companionship; close conversation and relationship.
Connotation of speech, lecture or sermon.

Corrupt: change from good and sound condition to unsound and bad condition;
to spoil, contaminate, make rotten

Good manners: sound and intrinsically good morals. Ethical conduct.

If develop close association with those who do not represent good and godly character your morals caused to deteriate...perverted, debased, morally unsound.

Paul well read in poetry and philosophy.

Context: wrong crowd teaching heresy regarding resurrection

Result: moral values affected.

Might as well *eat, drink, for tomorrow we will die.*

Interesting that pagan writer had more wisdom than many believers

Barnes: *The sentiment of the passage is, that the contact of evil-minded men, or that the close friendship and conversation of those who hold erroneous opinions, or who are impure in their lives, tends to corrupt the morals, the heart, the sentiments of others. The particular thing to which Paul here applies it is the subject of the resurrection*

Wrong doctrine will have devastating affect on morals.

Theology affects morality

Prov. 13:20;23:20; 4:14-15; 4:15; 22:24-25; 28:19; Psa. 1:1-2

Associations influence direction

Bridges: *It is not left to us to determine, whether there shall be any influence; only, what that influence shall be.*

Goethe: *Tell me with whom thou art found, and I will tell thee who thou art: let me know thy chosen employment, and I will cast the horoscope of thy future.*

Benjamin Franklin: *Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.*

George Washington: *Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation: for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company*

Gal. 6:1 ... *restore such an one in the spirit of meekness*...Matt. 18:15-17

1. Communicate love.
2. Verbalize commitment to Christ Prov. 26:5
3. Do not gossip or malign
4. Pray
5. Surround with right influence
6. Be a friend (not companion)

Sometimes, authority needs to apply Prov. 19:25; 22:10; 24:9

Separation: 2 Cor. 6:17; Titus 2:14; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17; Matt. 5:13-16

Isolation: Don't sit by me, get near me, and talk to me. If you do, I will be tainted

Why don't see people in social web won to Christ.

1. Don't like us
2. Don't respect us
3. We don't understand difference between separation and isolation.

Levels of Friendships (IBLP)

1. Acquaintance: Know name. Very surface.
2. Casual: Discover strong points. Learn goals and purposes
3. Close: Discuss goals together.
4. Intimate: Assume personal responsibility for his reputation. Accountability.

So what?

Be a friend to all...a companion of few

Realize: Evil companions corrupt good morals.